

SITUATION REPORT NO. 21
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: July 1, 2005 Time: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. **NATURE OF DISASTER:** **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Governor John Hoeven has issued a disaster declaration to address severe thunderstorms that have produced abnormal amounts of rainfall, ground saturation, hail, high winds and tornadoes throughout the state and for continued flooding in the Devils Lake Basin.
2. **DEATHS AND INJURIES:** No changes from previous reports.
3. **DAMAGES:** An analysis by meteorologists with the Grand Forks Office of the National Weather Service (NWS) indicated wet weather for the month of June in North Dakota originated from a persistent and deep trough of low pressure along the west coast of North America. This system produced a prolonged extratropical cyclone, which focused energy that developed embedded storm systems. The storms caused extensive and protracted periods of thunderstorms across North Dakota, producing widespread heavy rains, large hail, damaging winds and frequent tornadoes. Preliminary reports indicate that this period produced a record level of severe activity, equaling or exceeding any previous summer month's documented events. NWS cooperative observer reports indicate that June precipitation exceeded 200 percent of normal over the majority of the 53 counties. Most of the 17 counties in eastern North Dakota approached 250 percent of normal precipitation. Southeast and north central North Dakota, along with portions of Barnes, Bottineau, Cass, LaMoure, McHenry, Ransom, Richland, Sargent and Ward Counties, exceeded 300 percent of normal.

Overall storm events during June are likely at a record level. Preliminary data from the NWS indicates that this storm period produced 32 tornadoes and 280 hail and damaging wind events, placing this period at or above the previous record storm levels produced during July 2001.

This current storm period also produced nearly 50 flash flood events, and numerous overland flood or riverine flood events, over twice the July 2001 mark, and the highest of any month on record. Storm activity during June has equaled or exceeded the total amount of activity expected during a typical summer-time convective season for the state.

The heavy rains have pushed Devils Lake near its historic record level at month's end. NWS meteorologists indicated the lake will likely exceed the record level early in July and persist at such high levels well into winter freeze-up. A revised outlook, issued June 29, indicates the following levels and percentages for occurrence: 1,449.4 feet, 80 to 90 percent; 1,449.6 feet, 60 to 70 percent; 1,449.7 feet, 40 percent; 1,449.8, 30 percent; 1,449.9, 20 percent; and 1,450.6, 10 percent.

Severe thunderstorms and flooding from heavy rain are possible across eastern North Dakota from the afternoon of July 2 through the morning of July 3. Thunderstorms are expected to develop in central North Dakota on the afternoon of July 2 around 3:00 p.m. Storms will become more numerous by the evening as they move into eastern North Dakota. NWS reports indicate these storms will be capable of producing damaging winds, large hail and heavy rain. The heavy rain may also produce flooding on already saturated ground. Storms should move east of the region by the evening of July 3 as more tranquil weather moves into the northern plains for Independence Day through the rest of next week. Current indications are that one to three inches of rain may fall across the northern half of the Red River Valley and Devils Lake Basin this weekend with around one inch possible for the southern half of the area.

The N.D. Board of Animal Health reported recent heavy rains and flooding in much of North Dakota have created prime conditions for anthrax. Anthrax is a bacterial disease generally contracted by livestock after consuming spores found in the soil. State animal health officials have advised livestock owners in areas where anthrax has been recorded in the past to consult their veterinarians about having their animals vaccinated. They are also encouraged to report any sudden or unusual livestock deaths to their veterinarians or to the State Board of Animal Health.

River Statements

On July 1, the NWS issued flood warnings for the lower James River at Ludden Dam; the Red River at Fargo, Drayton, Wahpeton and Pembina; the Souris River at Westhope; the Missouri River near Williston; as well as the Willow Creek River and the Wild Rice River at Abercrombie.

River forecasts from the NWS, based on current observations, are as follows:

River	Flood Stage	Last Report	Comments
Red River at Fargo	17 feet	19.89 feet @ 7:00 a.m. July 1	River trend is falling
Red River at Pembina	42 feet	44.32 feet @ 8:00 a.m. July 1	Crested, river trend is falling
Red River at Drayton	32 feet	35.87 feet @ 8:00 a.m. July 1	River trend is falling
Red River at Wahpeton	10 feet	12.53 feet @ 8:00 a.m. July 1	Crest @ 13.9 feet on July 3
Wild Rice River at Abercrombie	10 feet	12.21 feet @ 6:45 a.m. July 1	River trend is rising
James River at Ludden Dam	12 feet	12.21 feet @ 6:45 a.m. July 1	Crested, river trend is falling
Missouri River near Williston	20 feet	20.16 feet @ 7:16 a.m. July 1	Crested, river trend is falling
Souris River near Westhope	10.0 feet	10.14 feet at 9:00 a.m. July 1	Crest forecast: 11 feet on July 7
Willow Creek near Willow City	10.0 feet	10.44 feet at 4:00 a.m. July 1	Crest @ 14.0 feet on July 6

The State Operations Center (SOC) received the following reports of storm activity from local emergency managers and agricultural officials:

Bottineau County

The Bottineau County U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) County Emergency Board (CEB) reported June rainfall totals varied from 10 to over 20 inches. Crop disease is evident, crop spraying is difficult, and the entire county is affected. There are areas of erosion. Production loss from drowned out areas is evident.

Pembina County

The Tongue River is high and beginning to overflow its banks about three miles west of the Renwick Dam and is five feet above full pool stage. Water in ditches west of Cavalier is slowly receding. Overland flooding threatened the city of Hamilton. Kart Creek is full in the southern end of the county, and has overflowed its banks in some areas, affecting agricultural lands. Willow Creek Dam, near the Crystal area, is more full than normal. In the city of Pembina, one pump burned out from steady use. Areas in the south part of the city have overland flooding. This is the area where houses were bought out after the 1997 flood. There are two private residences remaining in that area. The ball diamonds and the park are covered with water.

Renville County

Recent heavy rainfall has caused damage to township, county and city roads, with several roads flagged and some closed. Homeowners throughout the

county have reported flood damage, including water in basements, with one resident considering evacuating their home. The city of Glenburn reports the majority of homes have water damage. The public sewer system is utilizing extra pumps to avoid system backup, which is requiring close monitoring of the city lagoon. The USDA CEB estimates damage to 25 percent of crops in the southern portion of the county, with additional lesser reports of crop damage in the north.

Richland County

The USDA CEB reported excessive rain and high winds caused fields to become saturated. Because of early rains, some fields will not be seeded and the crops that have been seeded are under water. Wheat is logged. Parts of the county have received up to 16 inches of rain. A barn was blown down by high winds. Pastures are under water. Producers are moving their stock to higher ground.

Ward County

The County Engineer has observed that the Souris River has crested and is receding at Logan in southeast Ward County. The weather forecast calls for a 10 to 20 percent chance of rain over the next 10 days, which will help recovery operations.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No changes from previous reports.

STATE: No changes from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Volunteers with Seventh Day Adventists and the United Methodists Disaster Response are continuing their efforts to assist Edgeley residents with flood cleanup and recovery work.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On July 1, Gov. John Hoeven signed an Executive Order proclaiming a flood disaster in North Dakota, as well as a letter of request for a federal presidential disaster declaration in 20 North Dakota counties and two Indian reservations for damages to public infrastructure from recent severe storms and flooding. The Governor's request follows completion of a preliminary damage assessment (PDA) by federal, state, local and tribal officials. Statewide estimates of damage compiled by these teams show losses of more than \$13 million in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) eligible damage to power utilities, roads, bridges and other transportation infrastructure, which does not include costs associated with insured losses, agricultural losses or costs to individuals impacted by recent storms and flooding.

Counties and tribal lands included in the Governor's presidential disaster request are: Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, Dickey, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, McHenry, Nelson, Pierce, Ramsey, Richland, Sargent, Stark, Sioux, Steele,

Trall, Walsh and Ward counties, along with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and Standing Rock Sioux tribal reservations.

Hoeven directed the N.D. Division of Homeland Security to identify sources of state and local assistance for residents with unmet needs. The Division has been working with state agencies, such as the N.D. Department of Human Services, as well as N.D. Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) to identify sources to address unmet needs. The 2-1-1 statewide information, referral and crisis intervention service is available to individuals who have unmet needs as a central point of contact to apply for help from relief agencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Ward County

The County Engineer is monitoring Egg Creek, west of the Minot Air Force Base, for potential flooding on the north end of the county.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Homeland Security's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Susan Reinertson, Director
N.D. Division of Homeland Security